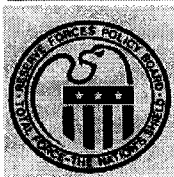


# RFPB **Z - Mail**



*Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Reserve Forces Policy Board,  
The Honorable Albert C. Zapanta, Chairman*



Vol 1 No. 2

## **Strengthening the Link with America in the Era of Global War on Terrorism**

### **The Citizen Patriot**

#### Maintaining the Will of the American People

The Reserve components provide a vital link between our Armed Forces and the American people. Since the Revolutionary War, General George Washington's Citizen Patriot militia, Citizen Patriots have traditionally been the mainstay of our national security. They provide a reservoir of unique civilian skills and capabilities not normally resident within DoD. The Reserve components are highly flexible and cost effective. They are uniquely positioned to assume key roles in the new strategic environment with minimal fiscal impact. Secretary Rumsfeld's reform and transformation initiatives offer a unique opportunity to define a new Total Force Policy that ensures a strong bond with our country's Citizen Patriots.

#### Developing a Strategy for the Next 25 Years

The Citizen Patriot Forum is an information gathering tool used by the Reserve Forces Policy Board to gain insight from American stakeholders on Guard and Reserve issues that impact them. Forums are conducted in conjunction with Board visits to major command locations and field units and usually involve about 20 to 40 community, public and private sector leaders from local communities.

A Citizen Patriot Forum focuses on communication and information gathering. Forum attendees include Board members and staff, local active and reserve component military leaders, and a representative cross section of local community, civic, religious, and education leaders; senior public service personnel and first responders; and other influence leaders from the private sector.

#### Common Issues Raised in CPFs

- ✓ Americans are very willing to volunteer to support the Global War on Terrorism, but many are not aware of the opportunities open to them. A vast wealth of relatively free manpower, skills and experience is going untapped.
- ✓ Local first responders are rarely included in planning processes or discussions with federal officials. They support the GWOT but are cut out of strategy development for their levels.
- ✓ Local agencies rarely receive timely intelligence, threat analysis or information. Local federal agencies often have important information but cannot release it because it is classified.
- ✓ A number of states have organized and duly constituted state militias that are not being utilized in the GWOT to the fullest extent. This experienced and readily available resource should not be overlooked.
- ✓ The uncertainties associated with the duration of this mobilization impact families, employers, educations, incomes and the futures of everyone involved because we don't know how long or how often Guard and Reserve personnel will be called up. This, in turn, will impact recruiting and retention.

**To obtain more information on CPFs, including a schedule of upcoming forums, contact us at [www.defenselink.mil/ra/rfpb](http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/rfpb)**

*Have A Safe And  
Happy Holiday Season!*